
Environmental Advisory Council
Tuesday, May 22, 2012

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council was held on the above date for the transaction of general business.

EAC members present –D. Beane, R. Nieves, A. Molteni

Others present – S. Katzenmoyer, K. Feridun

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Beane called the meeting to order at 5:07 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Feridun, of Berks Gas Truth, informed the EAC about State Act 13 regarding oil and gas operations. She stated that she made this presentation to City Council who referred her to the EAC. She stated that she is requesting local municipalities pass a resolution in opposition to Act 13 and provided a sample.

Mr. Beane stated that the EAC did receive the information on Act 13 from Ms. Katzenmoyer and that the issue would be discussed at the EAC's June meeting.

Mr. Nieves questioned the EAC's review of Act 13. Ms. Katzenmoyer explained that Council is looking for a recommendation from the EAC whether or not they should pass the resolution opposing the Act.

MINUTES

Mr. Molteni moved, seconded by Mr. Nieves, to approve the April 25, 2012 minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Beane instructed Ms. Katzenmoyer to get Dr. Jennings' approval via email.
Note: Dr. Jennings approved the April 25, 2012 minutes via email on Thursday, May 24, 2012.

RAIN BARREL REGULATIONS

Ms. Katzenmoyer explained that Codes has recommended penalties if citations are issued due to rain barrel issues. She stated that she has also found the

dimensions which need to be clear on sidewalks. She stated that these two items will be added to the draft regulations.

Mr. Beane questioned if there was any feedback from Law. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that there was not but that she would follow up.

STEEP SLOPE ZONING OVERLAY

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that the City Planner has requested that no official action be taken on this item until after August 2012. The EAC agreed.

BERNHART PARK UPDATE

Mr. Beane stated that EPA and Exide are pressuring the City to close this project. He stated that the CDC has reduced the child lead standard to 5. He stated that Dr. Kimball tried very hard to have EPA run the model at this level but they would not. EPA feels that the remediation still meets the necessary standard and is protective of human health. He suggested that the City insist on a certification in case future remediation is needed.

Mr. Molteni questioned the current emissions and who is monitoring them. Mr. Beane stated that EPA is monitoring emissions and the data is available on their website.

Mr. Molteni noted that monitor placement is also an issue.

RECYCLING/SOLID WASTE SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Beane stated that this subcommittee has met three times and is concentrating on recycling by the Reading School District. He stated that they are working on programs to capture this large waste stream to increase recycling income.

Mr. Molteni suggested that the City operate its own recycling center rather than pay Cougle's. Mr. Beane stated that this is a long-term goal.

Mr. Beane explained that a grant has been submitted to DEP to fund the School District program which will begin with a focus on paper and cardboard. He stated that the grant amount is \$250,000 and will be used to purchase a bailer to be used by the School District. He stated that they will also be getting the bailer formerly used by Conrad Weiser. He stated that the Committee has been told that they can earn \$130/ton for cardboard.

Ms. Hoag arrived at this time.

Mr. Beane explained that the industrial size bailer will cost \$88,000. The rest of the grant will fund educational programs and facility operations. The funds will be distributed in 2013.

SMARTH GROWTH ALLIANCE

Mr. Nieves stated that the last meeting was cancelled. The plans for the awards ceremony are moving forward and the next meeting will be held on July 20.

FLOODPLAIN ZONING OVERLAY

Ms. Hoag stated that the amendment was introduced by Council at their May 14 meeting. She stated that the issue was discussed at Council's Public Works, Public Safety, and Neighborhood Services Committee. Ms. Katzenmoyer mailed notice of the public hearing to property owners who are affected by the changes. The public hearing will be held on June 4. The maps are available through FEMA and are also posted on the City's website. FEMA has mandated that the new regulations be effective before July 3.

ZONING FOR ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOLUTIONS

Mr. Beane presented a power point presentation on Zoning for Alternative Energy Solutions.

Mr. Molteni stated that there are problems storing electricity. He also stated that the City should be using dam areas to create electricity.

Mr. Beane stated that he will forward the presentation to the EAC via email. He stated that the Mayor's office is hoping to begin drafting regulations this summer with the assistance of an Alvernia student. Ms. Hoag suggested working with other municipalities in the County and the County Planning Commission.

OTHER

- Blue Falls Grove

Mr. Molteni stated that this facility is failing financially. He suggested busing City youth to the facility to assist.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council will be held on **Tuesday, June 26 at 5 pm at Bernhart Park.**

Respectfully submitted by
Shelly Katzenmoyer
Deputy City Clerk